

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-25 are pending.

103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-9 and 11-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kaneka WO 99/23162, which corresponds to Suzuki USP 6,583,208 ("Suzuki '208"), or Kaneka WO 01/88035, which corresponds to Suzuki USP 7,056,963 ("Suzuki '963"), in view of Miyoshi US 2001/0031831 ("Miyoshi"). Applicants traverse the rejections.

Claim 1 is directed to a polyamide resin composition comprising polyamide resin and swelling mica treated with a polyether compound represented by general formula (2) (see claim 1), where the polyamide resin is nylon 6, nylon 46, nylon 11, nylon 12, nylon 9T or nylon MXD6. Claim 25 is directed to a method for producing a polyamide resin composition comprising, *inter alia*, melt-mixing a polyamide resin and a swelling mica treated with a polyether compound represented by general formula (1) (see claim 25).

In contrast, Suzuki '208 and Suzuki '963 disclose polyester resin compositions. Miyoshi discloses a polyamide composition. However, none of Suzuki '208, Suzuki '963, and Miyoshi disclose or suggest an unexpected reducing effect of mold shrinkage rate of a polyamide resin composition.

Whereas, Applicants have discovered this unexpected reducing effect of mold shrinkage rate of the polyamide resin composition of Applicants' claimed invention.

Submitted herewith is a Declaration under Rule 132 by co-inventor Noriyuki Suzuki that demonstrates this unexpected reducing effect. As shown in the Declaration, the polyamide resin composition of Applicants' claimed invention comprises polyamide resin and swelling mica, such that the swelling mica reduces the mold shrinkage rate of the polyamide resin composition from 1.86% to 0.58%. This mold shrinkage rate is far greater than that of a polyester resin composition, such as in the cited references, from 1.98% to 1.32%.

Therefore, it would not be obvious from the disclosures of Suzuki '208, Suzuki '963, and Miyoshi that their combination could provide this unexpected reducing effect. Accordingly, for at least the above reason, claims 1-9 and 11-25 are believed to be patentable over Suzuki '208 or Suzuki '963 in view of Miyoshi. Withdrawal of the rejections is therefore requested.

CONCLUSION

The claims are believed to be allowable. An early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 202.220.4200 to discuss any issues regarding this application.

The Office is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment associated with this filing to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Declaration under Rule 132

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